AN EXERCISE AGAINST LYING: FOR THE USE OF THE *Charity Schools.*

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AN EXERCISE AGAINST LYING.

Queſt.
WHICH of the Ten Commandments forbids Lying?

Anſw. It is included in the Ninth; *Thou ſhalt not bear falſe Witneſs againſt thy Neighbour.* For in every Commandment, all the Kinds, and Degrees, and Tendencies to

the Duty enjoin'd, or the Sin forbidden, is alſo commanded or forbidden; and therefore ought to be carefully obſerved, or ſhunned accordingly.

Queſt. *But is not* Lying *expreſly forbidden in the* Moral Law?

Anſw. Yes: It is plainly and expreſly forbidden by God himſelf, Levit. xix. 11. *Ye ſhall not Steal, neither deal falſly, neither Lye one to another.*

Queſt. *Can you believe that God, who is ſtyled* the God of Truth, *will have any delight in* Lyars, *or look on them as his* Children?

Anſw. No: We are told, *Prov.* xii. 22. *That Lying Lips are an Abomination to the Lord; but they that deal truly are his delight.*

Queſt. *What Opinion had holy* David *of* Lyars?

Anſw. The *Man after* God's *own Heart* declares, he *hates and abhors Lying*, Pſalm cxix. 163. and that *He that telleth Lies, ſhall not tarry in* his *Sight*, Pſal. ci. 7.

7. And he has noted it, as one Qualification of him that *ſhall dwell in* God's *Tabernacle, or reſt upon* his *holy Hill*; that *he ſpeaketh the Truth from his Heart*, Pſal. xv. 1, 2.

Queſt. *Is not* Lying *alſo forbid in the* New-Teſtament?

Anſw. Yes: St. *Paul* expreſly forbids us to *Lye one to another*; and exhorts us, that *putting away Lying*, we ſhould *ſpeak every Man Truth with his Neighbour*, Col. iii. 9. and Eph. iv. 25.

Queſt. *But may we not ſometimes tell a* Lye, *to hide or excuſe a Fault?*

Anſw. No, by no means; for that would be a great Aggravation of the Fault, and add a heavy Guilt to it. And though we may poſſibly think to eſcape Puniſhment by telling a Lye; yet how well ſoever we may come off for the preſent, the Guilt of that will certainly, ſooner or later, bring a worſe Puniſhment upon us. For the Scripture aſ-

ſures us, that *He that ſpeaketh Lies ſhall not eſcape*, Prov. xix. 5. and has given us a ſad Inſtance of God's Severity againſt *Lyars*, in the Story of *Ananias* and *Sapphira* his Wife, who were both ſtruck Dead in their Sin, *Acts* the 5*th*.

Queſt. *But what if our* Parents, *or any other* Superiours, *ſhould command us to tell a* Lye; *to excuſe their Faults, or pleaſe their Humour?*

Anſw. We muſt *obey God*, rather than *Men*; and not Sin to pleaſe or oblige any Body, though we were to get ever ſo much by it. But to be ſure, we can never get ſo much as we ſhall loſe by it: For by it we loſe the Love and Favour of Almighty God, which is more worth than all the World beſides. And therefore as we value his Favour, or fear his Diſpleaſure, we muſt be careful never to be guilty of *Lying*,

ing, or any other known or wilful Sin; though others ſhould be ſo wicked as to perſuade us to it.

Queſt. *Is not* Lying *a Breach of our* Baptiſmal Vow?

Anſw. It is in a ſpecial manner one of the *Works* of *the Devil*, which we promiſed *to renounce* in our *Baptiſm*. And unleſs we are willing to loſe all the Graces and Privileges we were then entitled to, and become again Children of Wrath, Enemies of God, and Heirs of Eternal Damnation; we muſt renounce, avoid, and forſake them, ſo as not to do them any more.

Queſt. *Who is the* Father *of* Lyes?

Anſw. We are told by our Saviour himſelf; *the Devil is a Lyar, and the Father of it*, John viii. 44. Beſides, 'tis generally the Beginning of all manner of Wickedneſs: For 'tis one of the firſt Sins the Devil tempts Children to; and thoſe that yield

to

to that Temptation, are commonly carried on to further Degrees of Wickedneſs, till they are brought to Deſtruction both of Soul and Body. And therefore all of us that deſire to be Children of God, and Diſciples of the Holy *Jeſus*, muſt be ſtrictly careful to ſpeak the Truth at all Times, and upon all Occaſions. For *Lying* makes us like the *Devil*; and if we are like him in his *Works*, we ſhall be in great Danger of ſharing in his *Torments*.

Queſt. *Beſides the Guilt and Danger of* Lying, *is it not alſo of a moſt odious and diſgraceful Quality?*

Anſw. There is no ſort of Sin meets with greater Scorn and Reproach; *a Lyar* being by all accounted a Title of the greateſt Infamy and Shame. And 'tis obſervable, this unhappy Fate belongs to *Lyars*, that they are generally diſtruſted, even when they do ſpeak Truth. So that if the

Fear

Fear of God does not reſtrain us; yet if we have any regard to our own Credit or Reputation in the World, we muſt on that Account reſolve to keep clear of a Fault, which will ſo effectually ſink us in the good Opinion of all wiſe and good Men.

Queſt. *Will* Lyars *have any Part in the Heavenly* Jeruſalem?

Anſw. No: *Whoſoever loveth and maketh a Lie*, will be ſhut out with *Whoremongers*, and *Murderers*, and *Idolaters*, Rev. xxii. 15.

Queſt. *Where then muſt they have their part?*

Anſw. All Lyars ſhall have their Part in the Lake that burneth with Fire and Brimſtone, which is the ſecond Death, Rev. xxi. 8. But Chriſt has promiſed *to him that overcometh*; He *will not blot out his Name out of the Book of Life*, Rev. iii. 5. And therefore ſince we are in ſo great Danger, and have no Power of our Selves to help our Selves;

Selves; let us earneſtly beg Grace and Aſſiſtance from Him, who alone is *able to keep* us *from falling*, (Jude ver. 24.) And we being *faithful unto Death*, He *will give* us *a Crown of Life*, Rev. ii. 10.

A Prayer

A Prayer againſt Lying.

O Lord God, who doſt love Truth; and doſt hate a Lye, as plainly Diabolical; inſtil into our Souls an unalterable Love of Truth, that nothing may tempt us to become Lyars, which thy Soul abhors. O Lord, give us Grace ever to ſpeak the Truth; and let our Hearts and Tongues ever go together. Help us to reſiſt and conquer every evil Inclination within us, and every Temptation from without. Bleſs to us, we pray Thee, whatſoever good Inſtructions have at any Time been given us; help us carefully to remember them, and ſeriouſly to practiſe them; that we

we may be ever growing in Knowledge, in Wiſdom, and in Goodneſs. Guide us by thy Holy Spirit, that we may live to thy Glory; and when we die, may attain Everlaſting Life, through *Jeſus Chriſt* our Lord. *Amen.*

F I N I S.